

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A surface-treating support member for supporting a plurality of works, comprising an upper case and a lower cage including a large number of compartments, so that the cages are openable and closable in a lengthwise direction.
2. A surface-treating support member for supporting a plurality of works each having an inside diameter portion, comprising plate-like elements openably and closably foldable in a lengthwise direction, said plate-like elements being capable of defining a plurality of narrow sections each having a length corresponding to the inside diameter of the work in opened states.
3. A surface-treating support member according to claim 2, wherein said plate-like elements are openably and closably foldable by a hinge.
4. A surface treating holder comprising a wire which is coiled at distances in such a manner that it is formed as a spring-like tubular structure having spiral-line faces at opposite ends thereof, so that works can be accommodated in said tubular structure.
5. A surface treating holder according to claim 4, wherein said tubular structure is a cylindrical structure.
6. A surface treating holder according to claim 4, further including an entanglement preventing spring wound around that portion of said wire which forms the side face of said tubular structure.

7. A surface treating holder according to claim 4, wherein said wire is closely wound in the vicinity of opposite ends of a side face of said tubular structure.

8. A surface treating holder according to claim 4, wherein the central portion of said wire is closely wound at locations corresponding to the spiral-line faces of said tubular structure.

9. A surface treating holder according to claim 4, wherein said wire is formed of a stainless steel.

10. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works, comprising the step of surface-treating the works in a treating chamber, while rotating the works about their axes in spaced-apart states.

11. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 10, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

12. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 10, wherein said rotation of the works about their axes is conducted with the works supported by a support member rotated about its axes.

13. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 12, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

14. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 12, wherein a support member according to claim 1 is used.

15. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 14, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

16. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 12, wherein a support member according to claim 2 is used.

17. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 16, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

18. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 10, wherein each of the works is accommodated in corresponding one of holders according to claim 4, and said holders are rotated about their axes within a porous cage-like rotatable member.

19. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 18, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

20. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works, comprising the step of surface-treating the works, while rotating them about a rotational axis in spaced-apart states.

21. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 20, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

22. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 20, wherein said rotation of the works about their axes is carried out with the works supported by a support

member rotated about a rotational axis.

23. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 22, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

24. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 22, wherein a support member according to claim 1 is used.

25. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 24, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

26. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 24, wherein a support member according to claim 2 is used.

27. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 26, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

28. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works, comprising the step of surface-treating the works, while rotating them about their axes and about a rotational axis in spaced-apart states.

29. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 28, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

30. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 28, wherein said rotation of the works about the rotational axis conducted while being rotated about their

axes is carried out with the works supported by a support member rotated about a rotational axis and about its axis.

31. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 30, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

32. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 30, wherein a support member according to claim 1 is used.

33. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 32, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

34. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 30, wherein a support member according to claim 2 is used.

35. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 34, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

36. A surface treating apparatus, comprising a treating material source provided within a treating chamber, so that a treating material released from said treating material source is delivered to reach works for a surface treatment, and a means for rotating a support member supporting the works about its axis.

37. A surface treating apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said surface treating apparatus is a vacuum vapor deposition apparatus.

38. A surface treating apparatus, comprising a treating material source provided within a treating chamber, so that a treating material released from said treating material source is delivered to reach works for a surface treatment, and a means for rotating a support member supporting the works about a rotational axis.

39. A surface treating apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said apparatus surface treating is a vacuum vapor deposition apparatus.

40. A surface treating apparatus, comprising a treating material source provided within a treating chamber, so that a treating material released from said treating material source is delivered to reach works for a surface treatment, and a means for rotating a support member supporting the works about its axis and about a rotational axis.

41. A surface treating apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said apparatus surface treating is a vacuum vapor deposition apparatus.

42. A surface treating apparatus according to claim 40, further including at least two rotary plates, on which receiving elements for support members for supporting the works are disposed in a circumferential direction, so that said support members can be supported between said at least two rotary plates through said receiving elements, whereby said support members can be rotated about their axes by the rotation of said receiving elements and rotated about the rotational axis by the rotation

of said rotary plates.

43. A surface treating apparatus according to claim 42, wherein said apparatus surface treating is a vacuum vapor deposition apparatus.

44. A surface treating apparatus according to claim 39, further including a means for transmitting a driving force provided by a driving shaft for rotating the support member about the rotational axis to said support member, as a driving force for rotating said support member about its axis.

45. A surface treating apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said surface treating apparatus is a vacuum vapor deposition apparatus.